

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF  
6 November 2001

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program -Tunisia

1. Purpose. To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Tunisia to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. Facts.

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length – 12-15 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: For FSI FAO: Jul-Jul. Classes at FSI begin mid-August. Final exams occur in mid-June. Regional travel is conducted before/after start of FSI classes and during school breaks. For CGSC FAO: Jun-Jul. The Tunisian CGSC begins in early September and graduates in June the following year. FAOs conduct regional travel before/after the start of classes and during school breaks.

(3) Program Description: Up to three FAOs per year are trained in Tunis. Two Arabic linguists conduct ICT at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI)-Tunis, where they conduct advanced Arabic language studies. Classes begin in early Aug and end in mid Jun. Their tour is usually 12 months. The third FAO, a French linguist, conducts ICT at the Tunisian Army Command and Staff School. His tour is also 12 months. The other major element is in-country/ regional orientation. In both cases, FAOs conduct regional travel around their school obligations.

(4) Prerequisites - CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial; For FSI: Arabic 2/2/1+ DLPT; For TCGSC: French 2/2/2 DLPT.

b. Property:

(1) Government:

(a) Vehicles: The current FAO Vehicles are a 1991 Jeep Cherokee and 2000 Mitsubishi Pajero. These are Government vehicles for use in support of regional travel. They are for official use only. They are *not* a substitute for personal transportation.

(b) Furniture: The station has three complete sets of furniture and appliances to include range, refrigerator, washer/dryer, freezer, microwave ovens, ceiling fans, and air conditioners. Electricity in Tunisia is 220V, 50Hz; the station provides four transformers for each family.

(c) Office: The DAO provides a separate office for FAOs at the embassy, which is equipped with a computer and printer. FAO property: There is also a small FAO office in the FSI facility, equipped with a computer with modem and printer. The CSC FAO has a lap top computer and printer as well. All FAOs are given email accounts on the State Department LAN.

(2) Personal:

(a) POV: The FAO is authorized shipment of one POV. This is recommended. Shipping time generally takes 3 months, so ship early. While it is possible to buy one on arrival, options will be severely limited. Contact sponsor for information on restrictions/type of POV suitable. Unleaded gas is widely available in Tunisia. USAA does not provide coverage for vehicles in Tunisia. Local insurance is also required and is usually obtained through the embassy GSO. CONUS based FAO's who prefer to have their car when they arrive, can ship their POV (at their own expense) to Europe and book passage by ferry (France or Italy) to Tunis.

(b) Household Goods: FAOs are normally authorized partial JFTR (35%), since most furnishings and major appliances are provided. FAOs should bring only personal items, clothes, decorative items such as wall hangings, kitchen and gardening supplies, and entertainment items such as computers, stereos and televisions, and sports equipment. The incoming FAO should coordinate with resident FAO for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

c. Housing: FAOs are assigned fully furnished quarters, based upon family size, by the Embassy Housing Board. Since the Government covers rental costs, the FAO does not receive OHA/BAQ.

d. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: AMEMB is supported by a nurse practitioner, assisted by a nurse. Conditions requiring further attention are referred to local physicians (visits and treatment are covered by TriCare). Persons with serious medical conditions are evacuated to Germany. Most prescription drugs can be obtained locally. Prescriptions requiring routine refill can be filled through the Pentagon Pharmacy.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Tunis is supported by an American Cooperative School, K-12th grades.

(3) PX/Commissary: The Embassy has a small cooperative food store. Most all types of food are available on the local economy. Contact sponsor for information. Most families make extensive use of mail order catalogues and the Internet for non-consumable items.

(4) Recreation. The Embassy has a video rental and recreation center complete with restaurant/bar, tennis and volleyball, and swimming pool. The Embassy recently added an exercise room to its grounds with weight training and cardio equipment. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) offers information and coordinates a wide variety of activities within the local community.

e. Rater/Senior Rater:

Naval Attaché – Rater  
DATT - Senior Rater

f. Address:

(1) Mail - USDAO Tunis, 6360 Tunis Place, Washington, D.C. 20521-6360

(2) Message - USDAO TUNIS TS

g. Phone #: 011-216-71-782566 x4257; Fax # 216-71-794-677 (Embassy DAO);  
FSI: 011-216-71-744-496/741-672 Fax: 741-062.

h. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

MAJ Elizabeth Brady (FSI)	0107-0207
CPT Laura Heath (FSI)	0107-0207
CPT Tim Lawrence (TCGSC)	0106-0208
MAJ Mark C. Delp (FSI)	0207-0308
MAJ Jeffrey T. Wyatt (FSI)	0207-0308
MAJ Timothy D. Mitchell (TCGSC)	0207-0308

3. Additional Information.

a. Entry requirements (NOTE: *This information is subject to change. Recommend incoming FAOs check DoD 4500.54G, Foreign Area Clearance Guide and w/sponsor NLT 90 days before PCS*). FAOs and family members require Official (maroon) passports. Visas are required for all FAOs and family members; applications are submitted after arrival in Tunis. Health/ immunization requirements: none, but FAOs should have all immunizations required for regional travel before arrival in country. Follow-up immunizations for common series (i.e., HEP A and B) can be obtained at post.

b. Bring professional books concerning training, tactical operations, staff operations, and weapons systems. Also, include Arabic or French language materials. The TCGSC Student should bring as many military reference books and manuals as possible. You will frequently be volunteered to work on special projects.

c. Civilian business attire is standard attire for the embassy. The uniform for TCGSC is Class B; FSI is casual civilian attire. FAOs will not be authorized a Civilian Clothing Allowance initially but may receive approval from the DATT upon arrival. Bring a full complement of military uniforms, to include Class As and dress blues.

d. Students and family members should bring a large number (40 or more) passport photos, taken in civilian clothes, as the residency permit and each visa request typically require four photos. The TGCSC student will also need to bring 12 passport photos in class "B" uniform for the EEM.

e. Travel Priorities

Priority One: The Maghreb, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Turkey.

Priority Two: Other Gulf countries, Iran\*, Iraq\*.

Priority Three: Sudan\*, Mauritania, Yemen, Libya\*.

\*Note: Current travel restrictions apply.

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